

Docket No.: HZA-0002  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Makoto Nakashizuka et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: N/A

Filed: Concurrently Herewith

Art Unit: N/A

For: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS,  
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, AND  
PROGRAM AND RECORDING MEDIUM

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56. Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and formally be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

☒ A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §§1.97 and 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* prior art reference against the claims of the present application.

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**Concise Explanation of Relevancy of the Document**

- ☒ Document CB (Kimura et al.) discloses that a control based on a fuzzy rule is introduced to improve the method described in Document CA (Ramponi), as described on page 2, lines 5-7 of the specification. Any document having neither English translation nor English abstract relates to the subject matter of the above-identified application. English translation of the document is not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted document (37 C.F.R. §1.98 and MPEP §609).
- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the U.S. filing date or within three months from the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b), OR is being filed concurrent with filing of the Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) or the Request for Continued Examination (RCE). No fee is required (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b)).

Dated: January 3, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Substitute for form 1449A/B/PTO				<b>Complete if Known</b>	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	Not Yet Assigned <b>10/563284</b>
				Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
				First Named Inventor	Makoto Nakashizuka
				Art Unit	N/A
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	HZA-0002
Sheet	1	of	1		

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
	BA	JP-09-044655-A		02-14-1997	Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.	
	BB	JP-11-066280-A		03-09-1999	Shimadzu Corp.	
	BC	JP-11-252368-A		09-17-1999	Ricoh Co., Ltd.	
	BD	JP-11-345331-A		12-14-1999	Konica Corp.	
	BE	JP-2000-306089-A		11-02-2000	Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd.	
	BF	JP-2000-101871-A		04-07-2000	Nippon Hoso Kyokai	
	BG	JP-2001-274995-A		10-05-2001	Victor Co. of Japan Ltd.	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	CA	Giovanni Ramponi, "A cubic unsharp masking technique for contrast enhancement," Signal Processing, Vol. 67, pp. 211-222, Elsevier Science B. V. (1998)	
	CB	Tomoaki Kimura et al, "Image Enhancement for Noisy Image by Using the Fuzzy Techniques Journal of The Institute of Electronics,," Vol. J81-A , pp.1247-1256, Information and communication Engineers (IEIEC) (09/1998)	
	CC	International Search Report mailed on 6/8/2004	

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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